

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. 911-007
on its own motion, to provide)
for and fund intertandem) ORDER
trunking across the State of)
Nebraska for use in provision of)
wireless enhanced 911 service.) Entered: October 28, 2003

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission has been responsible for the administration of the Wireless E911 Fund since passage of the Wireless Enhanced 911 Services Act in 2001 Session of the Nebraska Legislature. The Commission and its staff have been actively assisting public safety answering points (PSAPs) and wireless carriers with implementation of wireless E911. In its role as facilitator among PSAPs, local exchange carriers, and wireless carriers, the Commission has become aware of a need to transfer Phase I E911 wireless calls among different PSAPs.

Due to the mobile nature of wireless phones, a call to 911 is sometimes routed to the wrong PSAP. A call from a cell phone could transmit through a carrier's cell tower and be transferred to a PSAP that is not actually the closest PSAP to the caller. While wireless carriers have made efforts to minimize the occurrence of such a scenario, a need still exists for PSAPs to be able to transfer a wireless call to a PSAP that is able to more quickly direct emergency services to the caller.

Currently, a PSAP in Nebraska can transfer wireless 911 calls to another PSAP, but only the voice is transferred. With Phase I wireless enhanced 911, the PSAP receiving a 911 call receives a call-back number and cell site information. Without intertandem trunking, the call-back number and cell site information cannot be transferred to another PSAP. Transfer of such Phase I information is crucial in locating the person making the 911 call.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

In the interest of carrying out the intent and purposes of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act (Act), the Commission finds that it should fund intertandem trunking across the state. The Act provides in part, "The commission shall have any powers necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of the act."¹

¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465(3) (Reissue 2002).

Furthermore, "The commission shall determine the most efficient method for providing enhanced wireless 911 service."²

The Commission proposes to connect tandems in two stages. The first stage would connect the Qwest tandems of Norfolk; Grand Island; Sioux City, Iowa; and Des Moines, Iowa. The second stage would connect ALLTEL's Lincoln tandem and Sprint's Scottsbluff tandem to the network of tandems described in the first stage. A greater number of PSAPs served by Qwest Corporation (Qwest) have implemented Phase I wireless E911, thus the first stage would be connecting Qwest's tandems. Connecting the tandems of ALLTEL and Sprint would be more cost effective at a later date, as there are currently not enough PSAPs with Phase I E911 in either carrier's service area.

The total costs of providing intertandem trunking for the two stages described above are \$790,074.91. These costs are itemized in Exhibit 1 to this order. Qwest would perform all the work necessary to connect the tandems, and a description of Qwest's proposal is attached as Exhibit 2. Costs would be paid by the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Commission staff pursue construction of intertandem trunking across the state as described in this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon invoice from Qwest, costs of intertandem trunking that comport with this order shall be paid by the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund.

² Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-464 (Reissue 2002).

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 28th day of
October, 2003.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director